

## NEWS

*The Tribal Newsletter*  
is published free monthly.

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## LETTER

# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 16, No. 12- December 2007

### <> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

#### December

##### 10-14 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Idaho Environmental Summit, Boise, ID

Visit: <http://www.idahosummit.org> or contact Lisa Audin at 208/883-2388

#### February 2008

11-15 2008 Alaska Forum on the Environment/IGAP Training, Egan Convention Center, Anchorage, AK, For more information, agenda and registration go to <http://www.akforum.com> or call 888-301-0185. Suggestions for IGAP sessions received by **December 14, 2007** will be considered. Please send IGAP session suggestions via e-mail to [gay.santina@epa.gov](mailto:gay.santina@epa.gov)

#### April 2008

21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA

#### June 2008

23-27 Nurturing Mother Earth-Our People's Destiny, 8<sup>th</sup> National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, Billings, MT For information visit: <http://www.mtwytlc.com> or contact Allyson Kelly at: 406-252-2550

#### Environmental Education Grants

Apply now for an environmental education grant. EPA's environmental education grants program supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to help people make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. Schools, not-for-profit organizations, state and local government education or environmental agencies, and tribal education agencies or not-for-profit tribal organizations may apply.

The deadline for submitting an application is **December 20, 2007**. For more information check out EPA's environmental education grants website at: <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

#### Senior Transportation Grants

The National Center on Senior Transportation is soliciting proposals from aging/human service agencies, **tribal organizations**, faith-based organizations, units of state and local government, public and private transportation providers and other entities interested in developing and implementing innovative approaches to increasing senior transportation options and improving older adult mobility.

Successful projects will be collaborative, replicable, and consistent with senior transportation-related goals of the national United We Ride initiative of the Federal Transit Administration. The goals are to: 1) increase transportation options for older adults; 2) simplify older adults' access to transportation services; and 3) increase the quality of transportation services for older adults.

Successful applicants will receive grant awards ranging from \$50,000 - \$90,000. Proposals are due **December 17, 2007**. For more information visit: <http://www.seniortransportation.net>

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G**FY 2008 GAP Funding**

EPA awards General Assistance Program (GAP) funding to federally recognized Tribes, as well as tribal consortia, to build capacity to manage and implement environmental programs. With the exception of solid/hazardous waste programs, GAP funds cannot be used to implement environmental programs.

Proposals for fiscal year 2008 General Assistance Program (GAP) funding should be submitted to EPA by **December 24, 2007**. For the full funding announcement visit:  
**<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/webpage/Tribal+Grants>**

**STAG Grants**

States and tribes play a vital role in implementation of the nation's environmental laws and regulations. EPA awards **State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG)** to states and tribes to strengthen their ability to address environmental and public health threats, while furthering the art and science of environmental compliance. STAG funds are used to build and enhance the capacity of states and tribes to operate their environmental compliance and enforcement program; funds cannot be used for the actual implementation of the compliance program.

Each year EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance announces the STAG focus areas, application requirements, due dates and amount of money available through a solicitation notice. These notices are published on the Grants.gov website (**<http://www.grants.gov>**) and on the EPA STAG Funding Opportunities website (**<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/state/grants/stag/opportunities.html>**).

**Free Chemistry Training**

Trainex will be offering the following workshops in Region 10. There is no tuition associated with these workshops and they are open to all federal, state and local government employees, academia and Tribes. To register visit: **<http://www.trainex.org>**

***Chemistry for Environmental Professionals—Fundamentals March 25 - 26, 2008***

This 2-day course provides participants with a review of fundamental chemical concepts which underlie an understanding of applied environmental chemistry concepts and practices. This course is designed for environmental professionals who are not chemists, but who require a basic knowledge of chemistry and environmental chemistry in their work.

***Chemistry for Environmental Professionals—Applied March 27 - 28, 2008***

This 1.5-day course provides participants with an introduction to applied environmental chemistry principles and practices which underlie the release, fate and transport, sampling, analysis, and cleanup of chemicals contaminating environmental media with particular emphasis on soil and groundwater. This course is designed for environmental professionals who are not chemists, but who require a basic knowledge of chemistry and environmental chemistry in their work.

**DOE's Tribal Energy Program Internship**

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Tribal Energy Program is offering summer internships to Native American students who are interested in renewable energy and who are currently college upper-classmen or graduate students. To be considered for the 2008 summer program applications must be received by February 22, 2008.

For more on the program, see: **<http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/internships.cfm>**  
For questions contact Sandra K. Begay-Campbell at 505-844-5418 or **[skbegay@sandia.gov](mailto:skbegay@sandia.gov)**

**Children's Health**

In honor of Children's Health Month, EPA released *Children's Environmental Health: 2007 Highlights*. This publication, seventh in an annual series, highlights EPA work to protect children from environmental risks.

This year marks the tenth year of concerted Federal effort to address children's environmental health risks following the 1997 Executive Order 13045, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. EPA has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, assembled data to quantify the extent of the issues, and been an international leader of children's health issues.

If you want to learn more about Children's Health Month visit: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochp/ochpweb.nsf/content/chm07.htm>

**Tribal Meth Toolkit**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Meth Task Force recently unveiled the Tribal Meth Toolkit. The toolkit is designed to help tribal communities deal with methamphetamine abuse and trafficking. To order the toolkit e-mail NCAI at: [ncai@ncai.org](mailto:ncai@ncai.org) or call 202-466-7677.

**Urban Runoff Management**

The North American Lake Management Society recently published a second edition of a popular publication called *Fundamentals of Urban Runoff Management: Technical and Institutional Issues*. This document revises a 1994 edition and was prepared with support from EPA. The update is important because of the tremendous amount of new information available and the shift in the direction of the stormwater program from the historic mitigation-based approach to a more source based approach. The document is posted at <http://www.nalms.org> (Nov. Water Talk)

**Water Security**

In May 2007 the National Research Council (NRC) released *Improving the Nation's Water Security: Opportunities for Research*, an assessment of the EPA's water security program. According to the report, the biggest problem with water security is that utilities that need the information about security issues can't always get it.

The NRC report called on EPA to develop a strategic plan to articulate its mission and objectives and "improve its approaches to information dissemination using both security specific communication mechanisms and broadly applicable portal technology."

Earlier in the year, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security certified Hach's early warning system, the first water security product to achieve such a distinction based on 2002 SAFETY Act stipulations. The warning system can detect and identify a range of toxins, including cyanide and ricin, as well as things like arsenic and pesticides, and alert operators.

EPA finalized their Water Contaminant Information Tool. This online database-available only after receiving a password from the agency-provides information about chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants. EPA intends this information to help in responding to specific threats and incidents, and for developing emergency response plans and vulnerability assessments.

The report *Improving the Nation's Water Security: Opportunities for Research* may be downloaded free from the NRC Web site at [http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_id=11872](http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11872)

Find out more about EPA's *Water Contaminant Information Tool* by visiting: <http://www.epa.gov/wcit>

**Surf Your Watershed**

The Surf Your Watershed website (<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>) provides the ability to locate and check on the health of watersheds, find restoration efforts, and obtain real-time water quality data for participating states.

## Watershed Management Tools Online Course

*Key EPA Internet-Based Tools for Watershed Management* is a comprehensive, two-part course designed to familiarize you with powerful watershed management tools provided online by EPA. These tools are a resource for novice and master watershed planners alike. Presented in a readable, section-based format, the free course tutorials are now available for self-paced study. The only requirement is a computer with internet access.

In the overview, you will learn to extract reports from EPA water program databases such as the TMDL database; take a spin on Enviromapper for Water, EPA's online mapping application based on the National Hydrography Dataset; and query and interactive funding catalog. During the in-depth course you will get an overview of the Watershed Plan Builder Tool, query water quality standards for a state, generate a watershed-wide data summary on impaired waters from WATERS, and much more.

To explore the course visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/epatools>

## Change a Light

"Protecting the environment, while saving money, is as easy as changing a light" said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By encouraging people to make smart energy decisions, President Bush and EPA are brightening America's future, one light at a time."

If every U.S. household changed just one light bulb or fixture to an Energy Star bulb, our country would save \$600 million in energy costs each year, enough energy to light 3 million homes, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions from more than 800,000 cars. Lighting accounts for about 20 percent of a home's electricity use. Energy Star qualified light bulbs and fixtures use about 75 percent less energy than standard incandescent lighting, with bulbs that last six to ten times longer. One Energy Star qualified bulb can save about \$30 or more in energy costs over its lifetime.

The Change-a-Light campaign promotes lighting that has earned the government's Energy Star label for efficiency as a first step toward saving to take the online Energy Star Change a Light pledge. The pledge is a public commitment to change out at least one inefficient light at home with an energy-efficient one. To date, nearly 900,000 Americans in every state and U.S. territory have pledged to change more than 2 million lights.

For information or to make a pledge visit:  
<http://www.energystar.gov/changealight>

## Wastewater Website

EPA has launched a new website to help small communities achieve and maintain sustainable wastewater services. Many tools are available on the website to help small communities plan, design, build and maintain their wastewater infrastructure. The site also provides information about grants, funding resources, technical assistance and training. The site "*Wastewater in Small Communities*" can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mab/smcomm/index.htm>

## <> EVENT <>

### 2008 Tribal Leaders' Summit

The Squaxin Island Tribe, located on the shore of Puget Sound, will be hosting the 2008 Environmental Protection Agency Region 10 Tribal Leaders' Summit. The conference will be held from Monday, April 21 to Thursday, April 24, 2008. The theme of the 2008 summit is: Sustaining Tribal Cultures: Tailoring Programs to Fit Places. The desired outcome of this conference is to improve the health of watersheds used by Tribes of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial purposes. The conference will also provide a forum to strengthen the government-to-government relationship between Tribes and EPA Region 10.

For more information on the summit visit: <http://www.squaxinisland.org/frames.html>

### Heal the Ozone Layer

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The Earth's ozone layer is on track to heal, thanks to the work of dozens of countries that signed a landmark international environmental agreement initiated 20 years ago.

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Known as the "Montreal Protocol," this ambitious treaty requires countries to phase out production and use of compounds that deplete ozone in the stratosphere. Initially signed by 24 countries on Sept. 16, 1987, today the treaty covers 191 countries and is widely hailed as the most successful international environmental agreement to date.

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Each of the countries that signed the Protocol has measurable goals and actions for achieving success. These include phasing out production and use of ozone-depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons, halons, carbon tetrachloride, and methyl chloroform. Scientific evidence demonstrates that these compounds significantly deplete the stratospheric ozone layer, which shields the planet from damaging ultraviolet radiation.

"Twenty years ago, the community of nations came together to adopt a global

strategy for the global challenge of ozone depletion. Today, we at EPA join our international partners in celebrating the anniversary of the Montreal Protocol – a shining example of how human ingenuity, leadership and determination can create a healthier, better world," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

The United States has implemented key parts of the Montreal Protocol more rapidly and at significantly less cost than originally anticipated. With the help of many partners, EPA has also approved more than 300 alternatives to ozone-depleting substances for industrial, commercial, and consumer uses. Many of these new technologies also save energy and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

As a result of U.S. efforts combined with those worldwide to phase out ozone depleting substances, the ozone layer has not grown thinner since 1998 over most of the world. Antarctic ozone is projected to return to pre-1980 levels around 2060 to 2075. EPA estimates that between 1990 and 2165, an estimated 6.3 million U.S. lives will be saved as a result of these international actions to protect and restore the ozone layer. For more information about the 20th Anniversary of the Montreal Protocol visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/ozone/intpol/index.html>

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### Low Impact Living

A Los Angeles-based website (<http://www.lowimpactliving.com>) was launched recently to help Americans make their homes more environmentally sensitive. The website notes that our homes are responsible for two to three times the environmental damage as our cars, although the latter receives much more attention with respect to pollution.

The site allows users to calculate their environmental impact and provides recommendations about how users can foster sustainability. Topics include water and energy use, trash and sewage production, carbon emissions, and more.

As the website states, "At Low Impact Living, we want to help you lower the environmental impact of your home and your daily life." To do that, they help you find the best green products, practices and service providers to help you achieve your environmental goals. They will also help you understand the environmental benefits and economic trade-offs of your choices. Their primary goal is to make the path from "inspiration to implementation" as short and smooth as possible.



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### **Got News?**

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, EPA, 811 S.W. 6<sup>th</sup> Ave., Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail [creek.don@epa.gov](mailto:creek.don@epa.gov).

## ***Region 10 Tribal Newsletter December 2007***

### **To Report Spills and Accidents**

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of  
hazardous material spills or accidents.

<b>Alaska</b>	800-478-9300
<b>Idaho</b>	800-632-8000
<b>Oregon</b>	800-452-0311

<b>Washington</b>	800-258-5990
<b>National (EPA)</b>	800-424-8301